

# FATALITY



## Red Border Safety Alert Low Water Crossing Fatality

### Synopsis

While still under investigation, preliminary findings indicate the following: During the early morning of 17 May 2015, a 32 year old SSG attempted to drive across a low water crossing that had been closed due to flooding. The sedan was swept downstream and found completely submerged beneath the water a short distance away from the crossing. The vehicle was recovered but the service member was not found in the vehicle. After extensive search efforts, the service member was recovered on 21 May 2015.



### Factors

- Alcohol and fatigue may have contributed to this incident.
- Significant rainfall has made low water crossings extremely dangerous.
- Low water crossing was closed and marked.
- The depth and speed of the water crossing was capable of sweeping most passenger vehicles off the road.

### Recommended Soldier/Leader Actions

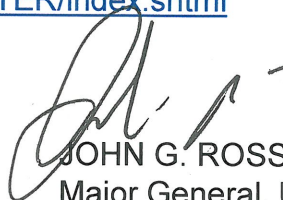
- Unit/Organization leadership discuss this incident with all personnel. Disseminate and post on all unit/organization safety boards.
- Turn Around, Don't Drown. Comply with instruction signs at low water crossings. Never cross low water crossings when water is flowing over the roads.
- Do not overestimate your vehicle's ability to operate in these types of weather conditions.
- If your vehicle is trapped in rapidly moving water, stay in the vehicle. If water is rising inside the vehicle, seek refuge on the roof.
- Be aware - only 4 inches of moving water can make you fall.
- Develop emergency action plans prior to conducting activities around flood or low water areas.
- Do not drive around emplaced safety cones and barricades.

### Additional Information

Pay attention to local weather reports and alerts.

National Weather Service Low Water Crossing Safety Awareness:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/water/XWATER/index.shtml>



JOHN G. ROSSI  
Major General, US Army  
Commanding

# "Fires Safe is Fires Strong"

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